Telegrams re: Korean War MIG Aircraft Losses

9/23/98

REDACTED IAW McCAIN BILL (b)(3)

[TFR 148-2]

(CLASSIFICATION)
COPY No. 4

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Must be returned
to the 8th Directorate of the
SA General Staff
within 6 days

[handwritten "~~649~~","55"]

ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM entry No. 500077/Sh

[From] Correspondent 20 Passed 13 Jan 51 0104hrs

Received 13 Jan 0507hrs

Arrived at the 8th Directorate

of the Soviet Army General Staff 13 Jan 0535hrs

By Wire

To Comrade Shalin

Qualified interrogations of American prisoners of war are hampered by the lack of people in the KNA who speak English well.

The following is extremely essential for collection of the necessary reconnaissance information:

1. Reinforce the senior advisor to the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the KNA with at least two-three Intelligence Service officers either by means of temporary attachment or by assiging them to vacant positions.

2. Attach one or two qualified English-language translators to be at the disposal of the senior advisor to the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the KNA, and permit them to conduct interrogations of American prisoners of war in Korea.

Please respond with your decision on these questions.

The reinforcement of the General Staff's work force was reported.

3. So far an English "Centurion" tank has not been discovered.

No.77/Sh RAZUVAEV

Decoded 13 Jan 51 0620hrs Mezenev

Typed 6 Copies L'vova 0655hrs /3/

No.1 file copy 8th Directorate
No.2 comrade Vasilevskij
No.3 comrade Sokolovskij
No.4 comrade Shtemenko
No.5 comrade Maladin
No.6 comrade Shalin

Deputy Commander, 4th Department, 8th Directorate of the

General Staff of the Soviet Army [illeg. signature]

[handwritten "Do not permit our translators to interrogate captured Americans and British. This issue must be resolved thru Chinese translators. [signature "Shtemenko[?]"] 13 Jan 51"]

[handwritten note to Ivanov to act on this, dated 13 Jan 51]

[TFR 148-3]

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SA General Staff

[handwritten "~~605~~","155"]

ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM entry No. 500169/Sh

[From] Correspondent 20 Passed 21 Jan 51 0509hrs

Received 21 Jan 51 1753hrs

Arrived at the 8th Directorate
of the Soviet Army General Staff 21 Jan 51 1810hrs

By Wire

To Comrades VALSILEVSKIJ

SHTEMENKO

In the fall of 1950, the Koreans captured (NATIONALITY) (RANK) (NAME).

Finding himself surrounded, (NAME) changed his clothing and hid in Korean villages for a long time. Later, however, he was identified and detained.

The Americans, at the time, announced that (NAME) was missing in action. The Koreans did not announce that (NAME) had been captured and kept it a secret.

Kim Il Sung turned to me for advice on what to do with (NAME).

I declined to answer.

Please advise if you have any instructions [for me] on this matter.

RAZUVAEV
No. 197/Sh
21 Jan 51

Decoded 21 Jan 51 1920hrs Lyubimov
Typed 3 Copies Budanova 2037hrs /3/

No.1 file copy 8th Directorate
No.2 comrade Vasilevskij
No.3 comrade Shtemenko

Deputy Commander, 4th Department, 8th Directorate of the
General Staff of the Soviet Army [illeg. signature]

[TFR 148-4]

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SA General Staff

[handwritten "~~173~~","354"]

ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM entry No. 500354/Sh

[From] Correspondent 20 Passed 3 Feb 51 1300hrs
Received 3 Feb 51 2200hrs

Arrived at the 8th Directorate
of the Soviet Army General Staff 3 Feb 51 2210hrs

By Wire

To Comrade Shalin

Captured fliers, (RANKs) (NAME) and (NAME) have testified that:

1. American air forces in the Far East consist of the 5th VA and DV [Far East] Bomber Aviation.

The 5th Va consists of up to 15 wings, of these 6 fighter wings operate from landbased airfields; two are bomber wings. Several wings operate from aircraft carriers.

Normally a wing consists of two to three aviation groups. A group consists of two to three squadrons.

There are no air divisions in the 5th VA.

2. The 5th VA has two fighter-bomber wings [IBAKR], the 27th and the 51st, based in Itadzuki;

18th Attack[?] Figher Wing [IKBN] - Hokodo, Korea
35th Fighter Wing [IKR] - Fusan [Fuzan]
49th Reconnaissance Wing - Taku [Tajkyu]

80th Fighter Wing [IKR] - Miyazaki [Miyadzava]
3rd Bomber Wing [BAKR] - Iwakuni [Ivakuni]
452nd Bomber Wing [BAKR] - Miko

Decoded 4 Feb 0110hrs Lebusov

Typed 9 Copies

No.1 file copy 8th Directorate
No.2 comrade Vasilevskij
No.3 comrade Sokolovskij
No.4 comrade Shtemenko
No.5 comrade Malandin
No.6 comrade Lomov
No.7 comrade Shalin
No.8 comrade Belov
No.9 comrade Batitskij

Commander, 4th Department, 8th Directorate of the
General Staff of the Soviet Army [illeg. signature]

[TFR 148-5]

Copy No. _____

(CLASSIFICATION)

Continuation of Enciphered Telegram No. 500354

[handwritten "~~174~~","355"]

The fliers do not know where the other wings are base or their number designations.

3. The 49th Wing consists of the 49th Fighter Group, 543rd Reconnaissance Group and the 49th Supply Group.

The 49th Fighter Groups consists of the 7th, 8th and 9th squadrons with 24 F-80 aircraft and 36 fliers per squadron. The 543rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group consists of:

The 8th Squadron - 24 F-80 aircraft and 36 fliers, the commander is Lieutenant Colonel DIKSON;

The 162nd Nighttime Reconnaissance Squadron - 16 B-26 aircraft and 32 fliers, the commander is Lieutenant Colonel SHARI;

The 45th Squadron - 24 F-51 aircraft and 36 fliers, the commander is Lieutenant Colonel PEHTIGRYU;

The 46th Technical Exploitation Squadron /photograph processing/, 25 officer and 300 enlisted, the commander is Major KONDON.

4. the 35th Fighter Wing [IKR] has the 35th group (the prisoner does not know the others). The 35th group consists of the 39th and 40th Squadrons of the US Air Force and the 77th Squadron of the Austrailian Air Force with 24 F-51 aircraft in each.

5. Prisoner (NAME) testified that operating in Korea are 250-300 F-51 aircraft, 150-200 F-80 aircraft, 75

F-84 aircraft, about 50 F-86 aircraft, up to 200 B-26 aircraft and up to 200 B-29 aircraft.

F-51 aircraft are being replaced by F-80 aircraft. Technical personnel are studing the maintainence of these aircraft.

We will send the interrogation protocol with the next mail.

POSTNIKOV

No. 355

2 Feb 51
Typed by Kravchuk 0235hrs 4 Feb 51 /6/

[TFR 148-6]

(CLASSIFICATION) Copy No. _____

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[handwritten "~~25~~[4]","4[49]"]

ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM entry No. 500491/Sh

[From] Correspondent 20 Passed 18 Feb 51 2016hrs
Received 18 Feb 51 2205hrs

Arrived at the 8th Directorate
of the Soviet Army General Staff 18 Feb 51 2220hrs

By Wire

To Comrade SHALIN

Reference No. 1077

1. According to the prisoners' testimony, British tank units in Korea are equiped with "Churchill" and "Cromwell-7" tanks. The few "Centurion" tanks that were delivered to Korea turned out to be unsuitable for operations in local conditions and were sent to England.

The following data on the "Cromwell-7" tank is from a captured manual: weight - 28.45 tons, length - 3.08 meters, height - 2.5 meters. [Its] "meteor" engine is a V12 cylinder, 570-600 horsepower, the maximum speed is 32 mph, range is 105 miles.

Armaments: 75 mm canon, two 7.92 caliber "Beza" machine guns, a two-inch caliber mortar, automatic rifle and carbine. It has a five-man crew. There is no information about its armor.

No damaged "Churchill" tanks have been found.

On 17 Feb 51, a damaged "Centurion-3" tank was found.

Decoded 19 Feb 51 0035hrs Vedoinskij
Typed 5 Copies

No.1 file copy 8th Directorate
No.2 comrade Vasilevskij
No.3 comrade Shtemenko
No.4 comrade Shalin

Deputy Commander, 4th Department, 8th Directorate of the
General Staff of the Soviet Army [illeg. signature]

[illeg. handwritting]

[mostly illeg. handwritten note to Ya.A. Shalin concerning Razuvayev and the Centurion-3 tank"]

[TFR 148-7]

(CLASSIFICATION)

Continuation of Enciphered Telegram No. 500491/Sh

[handwritten "~~255~~" "450"]

Preliminary data about it is as follows: length - 7 [meters], width 3.1 meters, frontal armor - 8 [cm], side [armor] - 5.5 cm.

Armaments: the canon caliber is approximately 60 mm. The internal equipment was destroyed when the shells exploded. A detailed description and drawings are being compiled.

2. A captured American soldier testified that the 38th and 72nd Tank Battalions of the US 2nd Armored Division are in action in Korea. They arrived in country in September 1950 from Fort KAMPVUD [probably, Fort Hood], Texas. The 72nd Tank Battalion is equiped with 50 "MChAZ" tanks and 20 M26 tanks.

3. According to testimony from a prisoner interrogated in the Joint HQ, in the end of January the 67th Regiment of the American 5th Infantry Division arrived in Korea.

BODROV

Information: Enciphered telegram No. 1077 signed by comrade SHALIN and addressed to comrade BODROV - Report the types of tanks that the 7th and 8th Tank Regiments are equipped with, their technical data, and operational tactics.

No.517
18 Feb 51

Typed [by] Dikareva 0115hrs 19 Feb /5/

[TFR 148-8]

(CLASSIFICATION) COPY No. 1

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to the 8th Directorate of the
SA General Staff

[handwritten "~~641~~","60"]

ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM entry No. 503876/Sh

[From] Correspondent 20 Passed 16 Dec 51 1644hrs
Received 17 Dec 51 0326hrs

Arrived at the 8th Directorate
of the Soviet Army General Staff 17 Dec 51 0340hrs

By Wire

Series "I"

To Comrade SHTEMENKO S.M.

The Commander in Chief of the KNA and LI KEh-NUN consider it necessary to include (RANK) (NAME) in the list of prisoners of war.

Please provide instructions as soon as possible.

RAZUVAEV

No. 4720
16 Dec 51

[stamp "Must be returned to the 4th Section of the OS TsK VKP(b)

Entry No.44091 dated 17 Dec 1951"]

Decoded 17 Dec 51 0110hrs Kazakov
Typed 13 Copies Lobyseva, 1610hrs /1/

No.1 comrade Stalin
No.2 comrade Stalin
No.3 comrade Molotov
No.4 comrade Malenkov
No.5 comrade Beria
No.6 comrade Mikoyan
No.7 comrade Kaganovich
No.8 comrade Bukharin
No.9 comrade Khrushchev
No.10 comrade Vasilevskij
No.10 comrade Vasilevskij
No.11 comrade Sokolovskij
No.12 comrade Shtemenko

Commander, 4th Department, 8th Directorate of the
General Staff of the Soviet Army [illeg. signature]

[handwritten "530"]

[stamp "Subject to return no later than 6 days to the
8th Directorate of the General Headquarters VS"]
[handwritten "to Comrade Vasilevskij"]

[stamp "(CLASSIFICATION),
copies are prohibited"]
[stamp "Copy No. 1"]
[stamp "ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM No. 501674/sh

Correspondent 3 presented 26 April 1952 at 0600, Received 26 April 1952 at 0805 arrived at the 8th Directorate of the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces 26 April 1952 at 0830"]

by wire

To Comrade ZHIGAREV P.F.

Copy to Comrade KRASOVSKIJ S.A.

I AM REPORTING:

1. The pilot of one of the enemy F-86's that was shot down, (RANK) (NAME), was taken prisoner. The prisoner stated that he flew the F-86 E-10 and if the pilot becomes disoriented with his spacial orientation he only needs to push a button to get back on course.

2. The preservation of the remains of the aircraft and the remains of other F-86's will be carefully examined and part of the component will be sent to Moscow.

3. The pilot stated that in the air battle of 1952 the 4th Fighter Air Group lost 18 to 20 planes.

The F-86 has more than 2 sets of

[stamp "Deciphered 26 April 1952 at 1205, Skryabik, see next page"]

[stamp "Typed 9 copies

Copy No. 1 file copy 8th Directorate
Copy No. 2 Comrade Vasilevskij
Copy No. 3 Comrade Sokolovskij
Copy No. 4 Comrade Shtemenko
Copy No. 5 Comrade Malandin
Copy No. 6 Comrade Zhigarev
Copy No. 7 Comrade Lomov
Copy No. 8 Comrade Belov
Copy No. 9 Comrade Betitskij
Copy No. 10 Comrade Khrushchev
Copy No. 11 Comrade Bulganin
Copy No. 12"]

[stamp "Deputy Director of the 4th Department of the 8th

Directorate of the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces"]

[TFR 148-10]

(CLASSIFICATION)

Continuation of Enciphered Telegram No. 501674/sh

[handwritten "531"]

pilots.

The 335th Squadron of the 4th Air Group has 12 military training aircraft and 40 pilots who perform one to two flights per day.

4. The last model of the American rescue equipment pack which is fastened to the parachute of the fighter pilots is being collected.

The pack includes:

a/ life-jacket
b/ life-raft
c/ a RT-159 receiver/transmitter, IAS-4-1
d/ corner reflector radio
e/ reflector for night searches
f/ smoke signal flares
g/ distress signals - light signal flare
h/ salt water distiller
i/ plug for water repairs
j/ maps and other documents

LOBOV

No. 567/k
26 April 1952

[handwritten illeg.]
[handwritten "give copy to Comrade Khrushchev
and to [illeg. name] on 26 April 1952"]

Typed by Poklonova at 1315 on 26 April 1952 /4/.
Supplement typed by Kravchuk at 2230 on 26 April 1952
Supplement typed by Rebrova at 1430 on 28 April 1952

[TFR 148-12]

[handwritten "584"]

(CLASSIFICATION) Copy No. 1

Copies forbidden
Subject to return within

8 days to the 8th
Directorate of the General
Staff of the Soviet Army.

Enciphered Telegram Entry No. 501817/Sh
Correspondent 3
Sent 7 May 52 1309 hrs Received 8 May 52 0055 hrs

arrived at the 8th Directorate of the General Staff of the Soviet Army 8 May 52 0110 hrs

BY WIRE

FLASH PRIORITY

To Comrades A.M. VASILEVSKIJ

P.F. ZHIGAREV

S.A. KRASOVSKIJ

I am reporting:

1. For the entire period of our units' actions in Korea the following practices were observed in the accounting of enemy aircraft shootdowns:

For fighter aviation:

a. the report of the pilot who shot down the aircraft, and of the other pilots who participated in the battle;
b. the film, showing the accuracy of the range correction taken;
c. confirmation of the local Korean authorities (district committees and the police);
d. whenever possible the location of components of the downed aircraft;

For Antiaircraft Artillery:

a. the report of the command staff;

Deciphered 8 May 52 0900 hrs Chernyshov /see next page/
Printed in 8 copies

1. to the files of the 8th Dte.
2. to Comrade Vasilevskij
3. to Comrade Sokolovskij
4. to Comrade Shtamenko
5. to Comrade Malandin
6. to Comrade Zhigarev
7. to Comrade Belov
8. to Comrade Vatipkij

Deputy Commander, 4th Department, 8th Directorate of the General
Staff of the Soviet Army [illeg. signature]

[TFR 148-13]

[handwritten "585"]

(CLASSIFICATION)

Continuation of ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM No. 501817/Sh

b. confirmation of the local authorities;

c. existence of components of the downed aircraft.

In addition to the stated material, radio intercept data is used.

2. For the period from 1 Jan 52 through 20 Apr 52, based on the aforementioned documents, the corps' air units reported that 136 F-86 fighters had been shot down.

(RANK) (NAME), a captured pilot of the 4th Air Group shot down 21 Apr 52 in aerial combat, has said that for the year 1952 the 4th Air Group, composed of the 334th, 335th and 336th squadrons, lost between 18 and 20 F-86 aircraft.

If that is taken as the truth and you assume that the 51st Air Group, with only two squadrons (the 25th and the 16th) taking part in combat, lost as many aircraft [as the 4th Air Group] then it follows that our units have overestimated by more than three times the number of enemy F-86s lost.

In a few other instances, the testimony of prisoners coincides with our information almost completely. According to our reports, ten B-29s and four F-84s were shot down on the 23rd of October. Prisoners have testified that the Americans lost nine or ten B-29s and the enemy openly announced the loss of the four F-84s by radio.

3. In April, according to the antiaircraft artillery command staff, the roving batteries (each of the three groups has two batteries of small caliber antiaircraft artillery - MZA) shot down 21 enemy aircraft. This was while working from fire positions along the southern [portion of the] SIGISYU-ANSYU highway and along the railroad at a distance of 1.5 to 2 km from Korea Bay.

[TFR 148-14]

[handwritten "586"]

(CLASSIFICATION)

Continuation of ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM No. 501817/Sh

Local Korean authorities confirm that all of the aircraft which were shot down fell into the bay. Parts were removed from only one aircraft, which went down 200 meters of shore.

By my count, only one downed aircraft can be confirmed. This caused dissatisfaction among some of the personnel of these batteries and among the antiaircraft artillery command staff.

4. Corps Aviation conducts combat operations above a territory of some 10,000 square kilometers, above a mountainous, sparsely populated terrain with few roads.

The majority of aircraft which are shot down undoubtedly fall into the bay, since American pilots use the slightest opportunity to guide their aircraft there.

Chinese and Korean authorities hardly report on American aircraft which fall on the territory of Korea.

We cannot establish posts in the indicated region of the sea. Besides that, at certain times and in various regions, search teams are not sent out [due to]: passage of international commissions; airdrops of sabotage groups by the enemy, whose mission is to capture Soviet servicemen; areas of activity of Syngman Rhee bands; areas with completely impassable roads, etc.

On the average, 70 Soviet servicemen participate daily in our search groups.

Search-group expeditions to remote regions and especially near the coast are under constant threat of being captured by American and Syngman Rhee spies because we are simply unable to send out large groups.

[TFR 148-15]

[handwritten "586"]

(CLASSIFICATION)

Continuation of ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM No. 501817/Sh

To date we have not found the lost MIG-15bis No. 0715352 and the flier, Captain LARIONOV, nor have we found Senior Lieutenant Filimonov, although his aircraft and catapult seat were found.

5. The S-13 gun-camera cannot give accurate readings as to whether or not an enemy aircraft has been shot down due to the following reasons: not enough frames [are shot] during the first burst of firing.

When firing 2-3-round bursts from the N-37 cannon, the gun-camera did not take a single frame.

When firing 8-10-round bursts from the N-37 cannon, the gun-camera took three to four frames.

There were several instances when fliers engaged in aerial combat shot down enemy aircraft and brought back material evidence of the downed aircraft on the surfaces and in the fuselages of their own aircraft, such as cartridges and fragments of the enemy aircraft. However, in these instances the target was not on the [gun-camera] film.

During aircraft descent from high altitudes the protective glass and the lens collect mist, which results in a poor target image on the film or the target not being depicted on the film at all.

The gun-camera is very poorly fastened to the MIG-15 aircraft. During volley fire from all cannons, as a result of aircraft vibration from the firing, the photograph ends up being poorly focused. This is especially true at high speeds.

Besides this, the S-13 gun-camera is inconvenient and difficult to aim during registration/ranging fire. On the MIG-15 aircraft there is no method for setting and winding the clock mechanism;

[TFR 148-16]

[handwritten "587"]

(CLASSIFICATION)

Continuation of ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM No. 501817/Sh

I checked the quality of the FP [gun-camera] clock. It runs poorly and stops often. After the cannons are fired two to three times, the clock face crumbles.

Warming up the gun-camera does not ensure normal operation when the surrounding air temperature is unfavorable. It is impossible to check the warm-up function under field conditions.

The stability of the lens aperture setting is unreliable. In flight, as a result of engine vibrations or vibrations caused by the cannons, the aperture changes spontaneously.

The S-13 gun-camera does not take the speed of the enemy aircraft into consideration. Furthermore, even if the film in the gun-camera does record damage to an enemy aircraft, recording at best a direct hit to the aircraft; the damaged aircraft still might be able to fly away, regardless of the great effectiveness of our weapons.

Antiaircraft artillery has no means other than visual observation to determine whether or not a plane has been shot down.

Antiaircraft artillery operations in coastal regions will unavoidably result in aircraft crashing into the sea.

6. The situation that I reported in paragraph 2 is dangerous not only because units may exaggerate enemy losses. It's dangerous primarily because it might lead to an underestimation of the enemy and an overestimation of our equipment, tactics and forces. It might lead to incorrect conclusions during preparation for war.

7. I have turned to the air adviser in Korea, Comrade Petrachev, several times with a request

[TFR 148-17]

[handwritten "588"]

(CLASSIFICATION)

Continuation of ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM No. 501817/Sh

to instruct the local authorities through the Korean Embassy about issuing confirmations on downed aircraft when the crash of the aircraft has been confirmed.

I have been assured that such instructions have been given.

The facts stated in paragraph 1 force one to doubt the accuracy of the confirmations that have been received.

8. I request the following:

a. Achieve, through our advisers in Korea, a situation where downed enemy-aircraft confirmations correspond to reality;

b. Accelerate the production of a motion-picture gun-camera that would accurately record the results of a hit, as I requested in my [correspondence] No. 1235/K dated 19 December 1951.

c. Issue instructions on the correct procedure for reckoning the number of downed aircraft for coastal antiaircraft artillery and fighter aviation units.

d. Take measures to establish the actual, enemy losses through other sources.

e. We will take measures to establish the number of losses in individual enemy units through prisoner interrogations and more thorough searches for downed aircraft, but our resources in this area are limited by a number of circumstances.

L O B O V.

No. 634/K
7 May 52
Prepared by Poklonova 1145 hrs 8 May 52 /19/.

9/23/98

REDACTED IAW McCAIN BILL (b)(3)